

SABAH

MALAYSIAN BORNEO

**WELCOME
TO THE LAND BELOW THE WIND**

DISCOVER SOUTH-EAST ASIA'S

MOST UNUSUAL AND NEWEST HOLIDAY DESTINATION -

SABAH

is Malaysia's premier nature adventure destination situated in Northern Borneo, popular for its tropical beaches, warm and friendly people.

Mt. Kinabalu (4,101 m). The summit of Borneo is sacred to the natives. Thousands from around the world have trekked to its peak. Mt. Kinabalu is a botanical paradise where rare plants are found : nepenthes pitcher plants, rare orchids and the rafflesia, the largest flower in the world.

Sabah's pristine tropical rainforests is home to many protected rare mammals : the Orang Utan, bizarre odd-nosed Proboscis monkeys, elephants, the endangered Sumatran Rhinoceros and rich birdlife which include 8 species of hornbills.

An unforgettable experience is seeing Hawksbill and Green Turtle make nightly landings to lay their eggs.

Dive at world renowned Sipadan, Layang-Layang atoll, or wreck dive off Labuan.

Come, Visit Sabah!

HOW TO GET TO SABAH



International Airlinks to Kota Kinabalu



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

SABAH TOURISM PROMOTION CORPORATION

51 Jalan Gaya, 88000 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia.

Tel: (6088) 218620, 212121, 219311, 219400. Fax: (6088) 212075

Postal Address: Mail Bag 112, 88999 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia.

Internet e-mail: sabah@po.jaring.my

**TRAFFICKING IN ILLEGAL DRUGS / NARCOTICS
CARRIES THE DEATH PENALTY IN MALAYSIA.**

SABAH CALENDAR of EVENTS 96

MALAYSIAN BORNEO

SABAH 1996

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

CHINESE NEW YEAR

19 - 20 Feb

These are the first two days of the 15-day Chinese New Year celebrations. Reunion dinners are held on New Year's eve and the New Year is ushered with a 'big bang' at midnight.

HARI RAYA AIDILFITRI

21 - 22 Feb

Hari Raya Aidilfitri is celebrated by the Muslims after a month of fasting during the *Ramadan*. The first day of *Syawal* is ushered in with thanksgiving prayers in mosques followed by the traditional 'open house' when relatives and friends visit each other.

REGATTA LIPA LIPA (LEPA), SEMPORNA

31 March

A regatta and colourful display of the traditional sailing boats of the Bajau seafarers. The event is held in scenic Semporna, gateway to the world renowned Sipadan Island which is rated as one of the world's top 5 dive sites.

PESTA KAAMATAN

1 - 31 May

Pesta Kaamatan is a month long traditional Harvest Festival celebration, beginning at district level on May 1 and culminating at the State level on May 30 - 31. Highlights include the traditional thanksgiving ceremony by the *Bobohizan* or High Priestess, the *Unduk Ngadau* or traditional Harvest Queen, cultural dances and much merrymaking.

SABAH INTERNATIONAL FISHING COMPETITION

11 - 12 May

The ultimate challenge - man versus the elusive marlin!

SABAH FEST

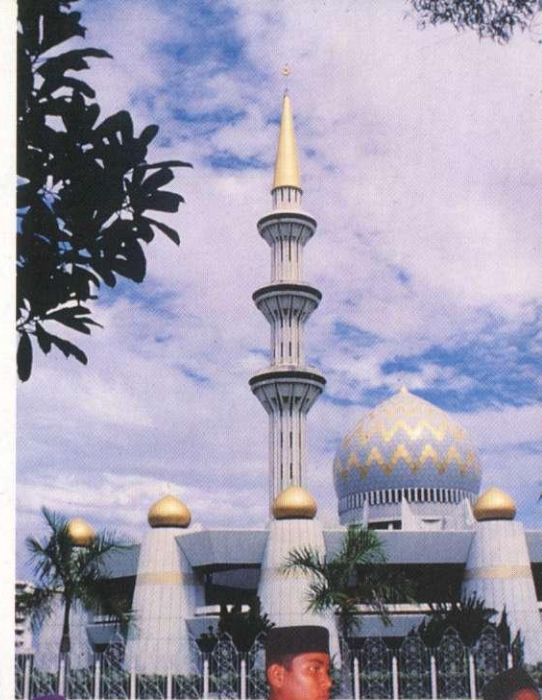
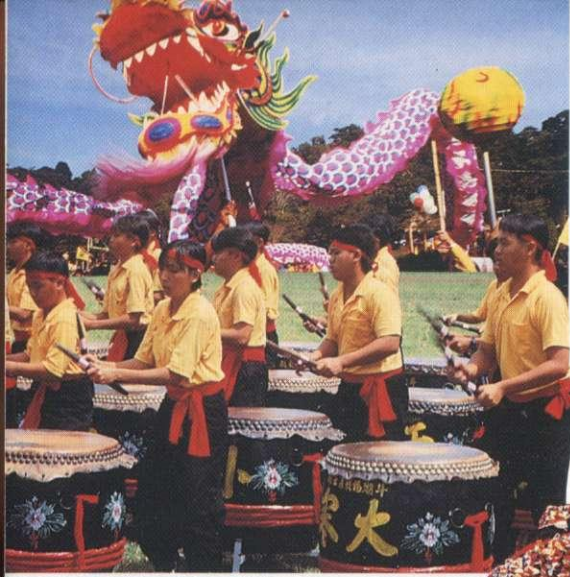
18 - 29 May

This is a colourful May celebration of Borneo's cultural heritage. Ethnic dances, music, handicrafts are on show throughout. The fest is held in Kota Kinabalu.

MALAYSIA AIRLINES SABAH INTERNATIONAL TRIATHLON 1996

26 May

US\$55,000 is the total prize money for the winners. From around the world triathletes come to prove themselves in Asia's most challenging race in Borneo.



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SABAH DRAGON BOAT RACE

2 June

The Dragon Boat Race originates from the traditional Chinese *Tuan Wu* (Dumpling) festival. Both local and International teams vie in this exciting race at Likas Bay.

HARI KEBANGSAAN (NATIONAL DAY)

31 August

This year marks the 39th Anniversary of *Hari Kebangsaan* or National Day. Sabah will celebrate with pomp and ceremony. It is a public holiday.

10TH MALAYSIA AIRLINES MT. KINABALU INTERNATIONAL CLIMBATHON

14 - 15 Sept

Toughest Mountain Race in the world!

In its 10th year on Mt. Kinabalu which stands at 4,101 metres. The mountain is sacred to the indigenous people; hence a special sacrifice of 7 white chickens is made to appease the mountain spirits each year before the gruelling Race.

BORNEO SAFARI

19 - 27 Oct

A test of man and machine, this 4x4 offroad safari covers some of Borneo's most rugged terrain and lush rainforests.

KOTA BELUD TAMU BESAR

1 Dec

Kota Belud is home of the 'Cowboys of the East'. An annual event, this *Tamu Besar* (Big Market) is an occasion when thousands of villagers from near and far converge. The highlight of the day is the colourful parade of Bajau men dressed in their colourful traditional best and riding their equally costumed ponies complete with jingling collar bells. A spectacular display of traditional equestrian games and riding skills.

CHRISTMAS DAY

25 Dec

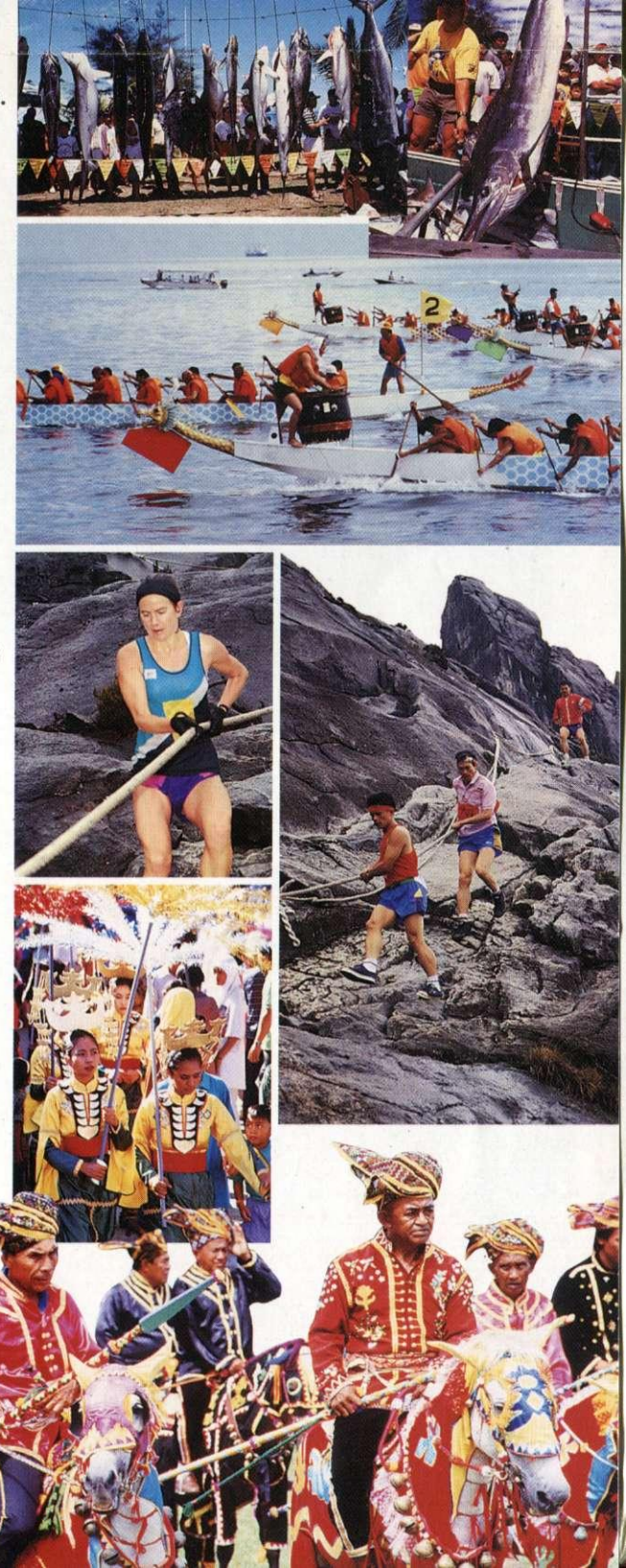
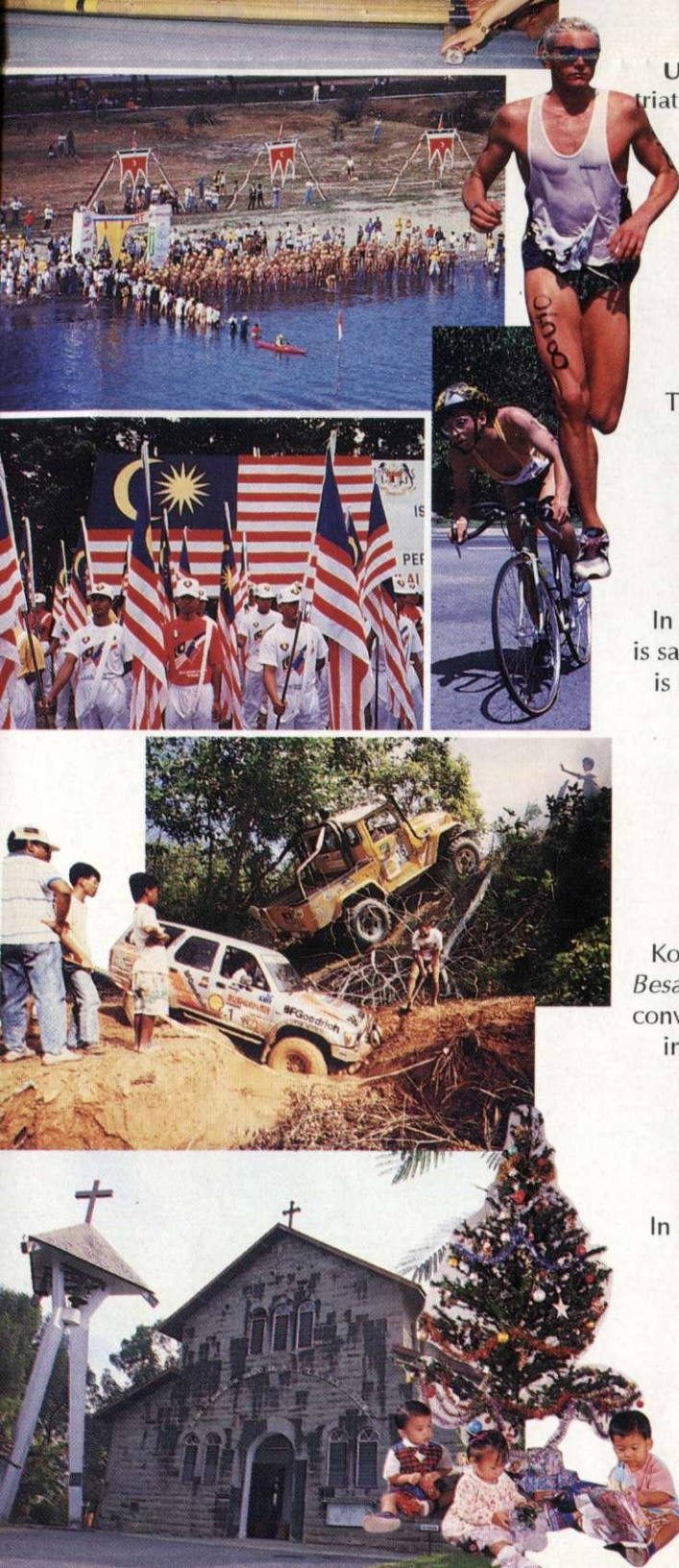
In Malaysia, Christmas is a joyous occasion enjoyed by Christians and non-Christians alike. Churches hold midnight and morning mass/services.

NEW YEAR EVE MIDNIGHT DIP

31 Dec

A unique local tradition. Thousands throng to picnic at popular seashores, rivers or even waterfall areas on the eve of the New Year, ready to usher in the New Year with their midnight ritual cleansing dip (*Mandi*).

Photography © Tommy Chang, Tham Yau Kong, Edmund Jokinin, Sabah Tourism.



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Mount Kinabalu-Sabah's sacred mountain (4,101 metres)

